GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2887
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
REVISION OF BPL LIST
Murmu Shri Hemlal

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several States especially Bihar have sent any revised list of the families living Below the Poverty Line (BPL) to the Government so that the quantity of foodgrains being allocated for distribution to the BPL families may be increased;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(c) whether some discrepancies have been noticed in the list of the BPL families in several States due to which many families living below the poverty line are deprived of the benefits under Antodaya Anna Yojana, Public Distribution System and Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS);

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to remove such discrepancies and include all poor families under TPDS on basis of recommendations of Prof. Lakadwala Committee?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a), (b), (c), (d) & (e): Request from State Government of Bihar and some other State Governments were received for increasing the allocation of foodgrains on the basis of Cards (Below Poverty Line) issued or proposed to be issued by them. The matter was examined in consultation with Planning Commission. At present the Department is following the 1993-94 poverty estimation of Planning Commission which is projected into the population figures of Registrar General of Census on March, 2000 according to which 6.52 crores BPL families

(including 2.50 crore AAY families) are targeted to be covered under TPDS. The matter was taken up with Planning Commission who have opined the following:-

`refixing the number of BPL households for purpose of TPDS should involve not only the growth in population but also the change in the incidence of poverty. It would lead to an incorrect result if one parameter is changed but not the other. The poverty incidence as per the 55th NSS Round (1999-2000) has come down sharply to 26% as compared to 36% in 1993-94. Under the circumstances it is strongly suggested that no change should be made in TPDS allocation at this stage. In so far as the Task Group on Food and Nutrition Security recommendation is concerned, the 10% grace margin has been more than exhausted by the revision in 2000. Moreover, the Task Group has also recommended that the number should remain fixed for the next five years.`